

THE LEASE LAW.

The Herald acknowledges receipt from United States Senator Paris Gibson, of Montana, of two proposed bills now pending in congress providing for the leasing of the public domain.

The Bowersock bill is printed in this issue and the one by Mr. Stephens will appear next week.

We invite attention to every citizen interested in any way in the development of the West to these measures and especially do we commend the one published this week to miners and mining men. Is it possible that the miners of the country will be inactive in this matter, when such a law would absolutely put a stop to prospecting in many localities where development of mineral resources have scarcely begun, but where it is reasonable to suppose great business industries may be built up pursuant to the opening of new and rich fields by the prospectors, who are always the forerunners of active development and subsequent employment of labor and productive of great wealth.

Let every citizen in any way interested in the discovery and development of our mineral resources notice that this bill proposes to lease all the public lands west of the one hundredth meridian west from Greenwich, subject to the right of mineral entry and when so entered to be canceled from the lease. Moreover let it be remembered that under our land laws there is a wide and vital difference between the possessory right of a prospector in his isolated camp, where he has gone with his grub stake consisting of a cheap gun and a small supply of bacon, beans and coffee, to perform the indispensable labor which in the nature of things is the prerequisite condition of every mining camp, and an entry and that under such a law as the Bowersock bill prospectors, in regions where stockmen drive their herds, would not infrequently become trespassers. No prospector could go upon a tract of leased land because he could not produce the evidence of his entry. As yet he would have no entry and, therefore, no matter how promising his field, he would be compelled to leave it because some one else wanted the gulch or the hillside to herd stock on for which purpose he signified his willingness to pay the government two cents per acre per annum.

There are numerous features of these bills of which the Herald will have something to say from time to time while they are pending in our national legislature.—East Side Herald.

Congressman Tongue has introduced an irrigation bill that suits and expresses his personal views as to what is desirable and necessary rather than the committee of Newlands' bill, with some features of which Mr. Tongue is not in accord. He may be nearer right than the rest of the members of the committee, but there would be a better chance for the success of some irrigation bill if all the friends of irrigation could agree on some one bill, and work together for that one, even if it does not exactly suit the views of all. But with such divergent views, especially when appearing within the committee on irrigation or among its members, there is very slight prospect of any bill being passed. The government will take hold of the irrigation problem some day, but evidently not this year.

The chambers of commerce of Portland and San Francisco have merited the disapproval of the citizens of the Pacific coast and the contempt and enmity of every honest working man by their resolutions in favor of admitting to

this country certain classes of Chinese. Such action by those bodies will be at once utilized by the Chinese lobby at Washington and will be very effective in influencing the postponing or defeat of anti-Chinese legislation. If this session of congress can be prevented from passing any anti-Chinese measure, a vast horde of coolies will be poured in upon this coast before the next session convenes. These so-called commercial bodies should be given to understand that the people still have some rights, and the admission of Chinese coolies under the guise of "merchants," "clerks," or "bankers," will not be tolerated.

Mr. Leasing Bill Lusk of Chico and the P-ranch has called a meeting of his cohorts in Washington to put up a fight for the land leasing act. All the stock wealth of the West is at Washington haunting the halls of congress, and "buttonholing" Eastern members to stand in for the robbing scheme, but thank God the West has a coterie of congressmen who are able to cope with them on any issue they may bring up.—Lakeview Examiner.

A man was afraid of thunder and crawled into a hollow log as a place of safety, says a truthful exchange. The thunder roared and the rain poured down in torrents. The log began to swell and the poor fellow was wedged in. Past sins began passing before him. Suddenly he remembered that he had not paid his newspaper subscription, and then he felt so small he was able to back right out.

A naturalist says that every time a farmer kills a hawk he throws a \$50 bill into the fire, for although the bird takes an occasional chicken it destroys at least a thousand rats, mice and gophers every year. Prof. Hodge, of Clark University, estimates toads are worth \$20 each for their work as destroyers of cut-worms.

A woman in the French chamber of Deputies hurled eggs at the members of the assembly the other day, which indicates that she was a rich woman and ought to win her way by milder methods; or else eggs are cheaper in Paris than in Burns.

U. S. Senator Bard of California, member of the Public Lands Committee, says the Bowersock Leasing Bill, nor any other leasing bill thus far proposed, can, or shall pass Congress. He declares the measure has no chance and is doomed to defeat.

There is a good deal of timber land in Oregon, but the corporations have swallowed up so much of it through lieu land arrangements that there remains little for those who may find it necessary to take to the woods.—Ex.

Will The Philippines Pay?

Senator Bacon, of Georgia, who has just returned from a tour of study in the Philippines, has written for The Saturday Evening Post, of Philadelphia, a valuable paper on the business aspect of our insular affairs. He comes to the conclusion that our account with the Philippines must, for an indefinite time, be on the wrong side of the ledger. This article will appear in the issue for February 22.

Other features of this number will be: Frictional Electricity, a clever humorous story by Max Adeler. How Trusts Promote Men, by Paul Latzke. When O'Connor draws his pay, by Holman F. Day. The Captain of the Gray Horse Troop, by Hamlin Garland. How Albert Edward Saw America, by Rene Bache. Letters from a Self Made Merchant to His Son. Sophomores Aboard, by Charles Macomb Flandera and the usual miscellany and departments.

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